



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Grace Notes

August 4, 2024

www.stpaulsrva.org

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THIS SUNDAY @ ST. PAUL'S

Nursery | (Children 3 - 5 years old) Staffed 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM, the worship service can be heard within the Nursery. Changing table is available.

Children's Chapel | This summer's theme is "Edge of Your Seat Bible Stories", available during the sermon for children 3 years through 5th Grade. We'll learn about a few of the heroes of the Bible and the exciting situations they found themselves in. It will keep you "on the edge of your seat!".

Rector's Bible Study | Norwood Room @ 9 AM. Join our clergy and volunteers as we explore the readings for Sunday worship. This informal setting offers the opportunity to ask questions, get to know others, and learn how to navigate the often- tricky and mysterious world of scripture. No prep work required.

Reminder about receiving communion | All are invited to the altar rail to receive the sacraments (bread and wine) or a blessing. Bread will be placed in your hand by the priest. If you choose to receive the wine, the preferred (and most sanitary) way is by drinking from the common cup, guiding it by the base to your lips. While our preference is to keep fingers OUT of the chalice, if you plan to intinct, please use hand sanitizer before coming to the altar rail. Hand sanitizer is located on the tables in the back of the church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Paul's RISC Network General Interest and Year-In-Review Meeting on Sunday, August 11 @ 11:30 AM in Scott Hall | At this session, we will cover: What is RISC? How does it work? How can I get involved or stay involved? Plus, we will review RISC actions over last year as we plan for a new program year. Your feedback will be key. Turn your faith into local social justice action for the Richmond community with 24 other local congregations. Please join us! Bring a brown bag lunch. For more information

and to RSVP, please contact Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook whitehurstcookmichelley@gmail.com.

Sylvia's Sisters Pizza and Period Packing Party, Wednesday, August 14th, 5 PM until 6:30 PM in Scott Hall | This year, 1 in 4 girls will miss school because they don't have period supplies. Sylvia's Sisters (sylviassisters.org) fights period poverty—the inability to afford or access menstrual products—by providing period product kits to schools and organizations in Central Virginia. St. Paul's has partnered with Sylvia's Sisters through our successful May Period Product Drive where parishioners generously donated more than 6,000 pads, tampons, and liners! Thanks so much to all who donated to this drive! Now, we will partner again with Sylvia's Sisters to host a Period Packing Party on Wednesday, August 14th to pack kits that contain enough products to last one person for one month. Stations will be set up where volunteers can pack kits (all supplies will be provided). After we finish packing the kits, we will all enjoy hot pizza and fellowship together. All ages are welcome! Please register [HERE \(bit.ly/periodpackingparty\)](https://bit.ly/periodpackingparty) if you can join us. Contact Lisa Guthrie (lismg1@aol.com) for more information.

Racial Justice & Healing Small Group Discussion: The Racial Wealth Gap in the United States Explained | Wednesday, August 21st, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | In this session, we look into the U.S. wealth gap between whites and African Americans. How was this gap created, and perpetuated over time? After watching a short YouTube video, participants consider: How have slavery, housing discrimination, and centuries of inequality compounded to create a racial wealth gap? Together we'll discuss how racism has negatively affected the economic conditions of African Americans, and seek to recognize current tools of economic violence. Please join us by registering here (<https://forms.gle/UVekyfxZqu81KQwB8>). Contact Steve Otto (steve.c.otto@gmail.com) for more information.

UPDATES and HIGHLIGHTS

Evening Prayer | Join us on Facebook Live Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. for Evening Prayer.

Woodville Elementary Annual Back to School Supply Drive | It's time for our 2024 Back to School Drive! Inspire a future leader today! With the start of the 2024/2025 school year beginning earlier for Woodville Elementary on Monday, July 22, the time is now to donate. Join us in collecting new school supplies for Woodville students until Sunday, August 11th. You can drop off supplies in the Parish House. There will be a box for the supplies near the stairs to the second floor, across from the Welcome Table. Online financial contributions are also welcome to support Woodville students start off their school year well prepared. Help our Woodville Elementary School students feel cool going back to school! For more information please contact Sheena Mackenzie at sheenam510@gmail.com. Thank you for your donations and support!

Here is what we need:

- Pencils and Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Tissues
- Crayons and Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Lined Paper
- Construction Paper
- Composition Books
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes

Summer Bible & Book Discussion: First & Second Samuel and Geraldine Brooks' *The Secret Chord*, Monday August 26, 5:30

p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Norwood Room | Over the summer, our Sunday lectionary readings from First and Second Samuel follow the story of King David from young shepherd to heroic soldier, to beloved king. To compliment these readings, please join us as we read both the entirety of First & Second Samuel alongside *The Secret Chord*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Geraldine Brooks. Brooks' novel peels away the myth to bring David to life in Second Iron Age Israel from the perspective of his closest and most complicated relationships, including the prophet Nathan. The novel traces the arc of David's journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor,

from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage. The Rev. Gwynn Crichton will lead us in the discussion. (Readings include scenes of graphic sex and violence.) Bring a brown bag dinner, if you choose. Please contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org for assistance with purchasing a copy of the book.

Altar Flower Dedications | The beautiful flower arrangements in the church are organized by the St. Paul's Altar/Flower Guild. Our weekly altar flowers are funded by flower dedications. These dedications are a loving way to remember a cherished family member or friend, or to give thanks for a wedding, birthday, anniversary or other occasions. The suggested donation is \$85. We have the following Sundays available for flower dedications: September 1, October 27 and November 17. Your gift supports a vital part of the life of St. Paul's. Contact Carter Johann at cjohann@stpaulsrva.org or 804-643-3589.

Education for Ministry | Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year small group formation program that delves into an education in the Bible, history and theology as well as spiritual practices, giving participants the tools and knowledge to interpret the richness of the church in a complex and confusing world. When completed, participants receive a Certificate of Completion and recognition from the University of The South/Sewanee School of Theology. A new EfM group will begin meeting weekly in September 2024 and run through June 2025. Meeting times will be decided by the group. Tuition costs up to \$350. Scholarships are available. Jeanne LeFever and Edie Patterson, both long-time members of St. Paul's, will be the co-mentors. To sign up or learn more, contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org.

Emmaus Item Spotlight | Summer Attire

With the scorching weather we find we can use more cool, lightweight clothing to distribute to our Emmaus guests. Shorts, t-shirts and blouses are all in high demand. Another frequently requested item are belts. There's no need to buy anything new – please check your own closets or visit your local thrift store. Thank you for your support.

MUSIC and ARTS

Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrimage Update | While the Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrimage program is on hold, two of our young people are participating in a diocesan program called "The Grounding", a local pilgrimage experience for the Virginia Triangle of Hope pilgrims which explores the intersections of race, justice, and faith. Last week, Isabelle and Luke Cresswell gathered with the Virginia pilgrims and traveled to sites around Virginia. The group connected the past to the present as they met with historians and descendants at Monticello and Montpelier and during visits to the Mattaponi Reservation, St. Paul's Memorial Church in Charlottesville, the Maggie Walker House, the Richmond Enslaved Trail Walk and more. The Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrimage is a covenantal community in partnership with the Diocese in Liverpool, England and Kumasi, Ghana. The program is dedicated to transforming the long history, ongoing effects, and continuing presence of slavery in our world through repentance, reconciliation, and mission. This summer, the program is on hold as the group from Ghana was not able to obtain visas for travel to the United States.

Participants Needed for Survey about Racial Justice

St. Paul's has an opportunity to work with a team of researchers from William & Mary and University of Wisconsin-Madison to study attitudes about historical and contemporary racial injustices among adults. This will help to inform and shape the Racial Justice and Healing Team's formation programs under development, including Walking with the Enslaved: The Church's Role in Slavery. Everyone over the age of 18 is invited and encouraged to take this short anonymous survey (bit.ly/racialjusticesurvey). It should only take 5-10 minutes of your time with NO experience required. Your input is valuable and helps increase sample size, whether or not you are involved with any St. Paul's Racial Justice and Healing programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Geneva Cole at gvcole@wm.edu or Genevieve Bates at Genevieve.bates@wisc.edu.



Vox Humana Concert | Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m.

| **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church** | Richmond's newest choral ensemble, Vox Humana, will present a free concert at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m. The ensemble, under the direction of St. Paul's parishioner, William Bradley Roberts, will present a collection of pieces that have proven popular at previous performances. Dr. Christopher Reynolds will serve as the keyboard artist, and the ensemble also includes St. Paul's choir members Stephanie Hill Blackwood and Aaron Todd. More information about other concerts that are part of the August Musicales can be found at <https://www.grace-covenant.org/events>

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Children and Youth Sunday School Kickoff | Sunday, August 25

@ 9 am | **Atrium** | Join us for a festive breakfast to celebrate the kickoff of Sunday School. Everyone is welcome!

Youth Online Summer Series | Traveling for the summer?

Join our summer contest series from the lake, the beach, or your living room. And for fun, we've thrown in some fun summer prizes! It is easy to participate: 1) Download the Summer Bucket List from our newsletter or grab a copy from the Youth Ministry bulletin board. 2) Check an item off the list and send a picture or written answer to earn a chance (or two) to win. 2) Read the Bible passage from our Youth Ministry weekly emails and send a reply to the question for three chances to win! Send pictures and responses to Bo Cresswell (bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org). Grades 6-12. Ends August 3rd. *Your pictures and responses may be shared in our newsletters.

Peace Camp Returns | August 12 - 15 (Monday - Thursday)

9 - 11:30 AM. First Mennonite Church, 601 E. Parham Rd. An interfaith camp for rising Kindergartners - 5th graders. At Peace Camp children practice peace with ourselves, peace with the earth, and peace with others. Contact Linda Willis (lwillis@stpaulsrva.org) for more information and to register.

PRAYERS OF THE PARISH

Each week in Grace Notes, we prepare "Prayers of the Parish" for you to include in your daily prayers and devotions. The Prayers of the Parish are like Prayers of the People in that we pray for the universal church, the nation, world, God's creation, local community, the sick and suffering, and the departed. You may submit prayer requests to be included in both the Prayers of the Parish as well as for the Sunday Prayers of the People by emailing Carter Johann (cjohann@stpaulsrva.org)

We give thanks to God...

...as we celebrate the season after Pentecost where the Holy Spirit continues to pour upon the Church as we make God's loving and reconciling presence known to all.

...for the long days, fruits, light, and relaxed rhythms of summer, during this season of growth and fertility.

...for the St. Paul's 2024 Annual Giving Campaign "Celebrating Who We Are and Who We Are Becoming" and the generosity of all are fulfilling their pledges to support our vibrant ministries and mission to proclaim Christ to the heart of the city.

We pray for God's mercy...

...for the Universal Church, the ministry of the Baptized, Presiding Bishop-Elect Sean, Presiding Bishop Michael, Virginia bishops Mark and Gayle, all bishops, priests, and deacons; all ushers, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, eucharistic visitors, and lay readers, according to the diocesan cycle of prayer; The Anglican Church of Kenya, according to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

...for the nation, especially elected leaders and public officials who govern our common life; students, teachers, and school administrators preparing to begin the new school year; those who are struggling with financial insecurity and poverty.

...for the world, especially the ceasing of violence and warfare in the Holy Land, Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan's Darfur region, and other war-torn regions; the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo; all refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers; the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the village of Mwitikira, Tanzania; restoration of earth, sea, and skies.

...for Metropolitan Richmond, especially the city's workplaces and businesses, that there may be safe, respectful work environments, healthy work ethics and attitudes, and sufficient salary and benefits for all workers; our Emmaus guests.

...for those who are sick in body, mind and spirit and all for whom prayer has been requested, especially Frank Montcastle; Robert Mercado, uncle of Lydia Mercado; Jan Orgain; Hank Hobbs; Connie Scruggs, friend of Celia Luxmoore; Ron Romaine, David Romaine's brother; Jim Pullman, friend of David Romaine; Mary Ramsey, friend of Celia Luxmoore; Georgia Jonkman, mother of Crystal Jonkman; Susan, friend of Lindy Wright; Jimmy Yeargan, Ginny Campbell's nephew; Ruth Lokey, Beth O'Leary's mother.

...for eternal peace of the departed, especially David Baker; Patricia Taaffe, mother of Leila Taaffe; Cassie Sale; Elizabeth "Betty" Traylor, friend of Yvonne Harris; Todd Sider, friend of Denise Williams; Judy Brown, friend of Denise and Chris Yates; those who have died due to warfare, violence, disaster, or disease; those whom we love but see no longer.